

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Round Mountain Ranch

**Proposal Number:** 1215

**DWR Region:** Northern Region

**Lead Agency:** DWR

**County:** Box Elder

**Project Manager:** Steven Wilcox

**PM Phone:** 0

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 8/1/2009

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**Project Location:** East northeast of Park Valley, near Indian Creek

**Project Description:** Project consists of a two-way chaining over approximately 650 acres. A diverse seed mix of grasses, forbs, and shrubs will be flown on to treatment areas in between the first and second pass.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The two sections proposed for treatment, have a significant number of acres that are ideal for removal of invading junipers and, in some locations, pinyon pines. Sagebrush bunchgrass communities have been dramatically reduced in percent cover and this trend likely to worsen over time, with likely increased percent cover of bare ground, related soil loss, and decrease in site potential.

As a result of the trend described above, winter and transitional ranges for mule deer have been degraded. The area is also within historic sage-grouse habitat, and there are active leks well-within the range of seasonal sage-grouse habitat movements, therefore future sage-grouse use within the treatment areas is a real possibility. Restoration of grass, forb, and shrub communities likely to be beneficial to sage grouse will be high priorities when compiling the final seed mix.

**Objectives:** Soil and plant surveys, as well as local expert opinion, indicates that some sites within the proposed treatment areas were historically a juniper savannah habitat-type. Other sites were likely a mix of black sage and Bonneville sage sites. The primary objective will be to restore these sites to the extent practicable within the constraints of the proposed treatment methods.

Likely juniper savannah sites will have old-growth juniper flagged for exclusion from treatments resulting in a mosaic of pre-settlement patches of juniper. Sagebrush bunchgrass sites will be treated to remove as much juniper as possible. Pockets of mountain mahogany within all sites will be flagged for exclusion of treatment to the degree possible, and mosaics will be sought within the project to maximize benefits to wildlife.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** Mule deer - priority III; greater sage-grouse - priority II; various shrub-steppe birds – priorities II and III

BARM W-Box, Great Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Mule Deer Conservation Plans

**Potential Risks:** Insufficient moisture following treatment and seeding could affect the success of seeded species.

**Proposed Methods:** Two-way chaining with ely chain. Seed flown on in between both passes. Treatment areas rested for a minimum of two years.

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**Shapefile Name:** HPD 2010\GIS Proposals\NR\1215.shp

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:** 1/14/2009

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Photo points will be established given that range trends is currently not operational. Regional biologist will be evaluating wildlife response as a part of annual duties, though this is not a part of any formally developed study.

**Grazing Management:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Shrubsteppe Birds

Neotropical Birds

Greater Sage-grouse

Raptors

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 1:51:35 P

# Project Proposal

## LAND OWNERSHIP

| Owner        | Acres      |
|--------------|------------|
| Private      | 650        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>650</b> |

## PROPOSED FUNDING

| Source           | Amount Requested   | Date Approved | Amount Approved    |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| WHIP             | \$0.00             |               | \$50,000.00        |
| Private          | \$0.00             |               | \$17,000.00        |
| Unfunded Balance | \$65,000.00        |               | \$0.00             |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>\$65,000.00</b> |               | <b>\$67,000.00</b> |

## PROPOSED BUDGET

| Item                 | Description                  | DWR Account        | Partner Contrib.   |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Contractual Services | Aerial application of seed   | \$8,000.00         | \$0.00             |
| Seed (GBRC)          | purchase of seed             | \$55,000.00        | \$0.00             |
| Equipment transport  | transport of ely chain       | \$2,000.00         | \$0.00             |
| Contractual Services | WHIP assistance with project | \$0.00             | \$64,000.00        |
| Contractual Services | contract for chaining        | \$0.00             | \$17,000.00        |
| <b>Totals</b>        |                              | <b>\$65,000.00</b> | <b>\$81,000.00</b> |

**Project Map:**





NOT chainable

48

Approx. 130 acres

8

9

Approx. 51 acres

Some area likely chainable,  
needs to be walked...

7

6

5

4

18

17

16





18

17

16

19

20

21

320 acres

30

29

28